

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07760 071011Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----072358Z 070537 /63

R 061345Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4809
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 7760

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: KERMIT ROOSEVELT VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 99550 (NOTAL), (B) AMMAN 2454 (NOTAL)

1. KERMIT ROOSEVELT VISITED EGYPT MAY 2-6. BECAUSE
SADAT WAS IN ALEXANDRIA AND WILL NOT RETURN TO CAIRO
UNTIL TODAY, HE WAS UNABLE TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT.

HE DID, HOWEVER, LEAVE A LETTER WITH PRESIDENCY OFFICIAL
FOR SADAT ON HIS IDEA OF PRIVATE ARAB-ISRAELI MEETING.

2. AS ROOSEVELT EXPLAINED IT TO ME, JERUSALEM MAYOR
TEDDY KOLLEK HAD PROPOSED THE IDEA OF AN INFORMAL,
CONFIDENTIAL MEETING BETWEEN PRIVATE ISRAELI AND ARAB FIGURES TO
DISCUSS "MAJOR POSSIBILITIES AND MAJOR PROBLEMS" OF ARAB-
ISRAELI PEACE. TIME AND VENUE WOULD HAVE TO BE DETERMINED.
ROOSEVELET WAS NOT SURE FOR WHOM KOLLEK WAS PEAKING IN
MAKING SUGGESTION AND STRONGLY HINTED AT HIS OWN
AVAILABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH MEETING IF THE
PARTIES WISHED. ASKED FOR SPECIFICS OF WHAT MIGHT
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BE DISCUSSED AT SUCH MEETING, ROOSEVELT WAS VAGUE,
BUT THOUGH KOLLEK'S CONTONALIZATION PLAN FOR
JERUSLAME MIGHT BE ONE SUBJECT.

3. ROOSEVELT'S LETTER TO SADAT OUTLINES ABOVE AND
INDICATES WILLINGNESS TO HELP DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.
IT ALSO ASSERTS FORMAL MEETING MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO

EXPLORE SOME OF THE PROBLEMS, HENCE THE IDEA OF AN INFORMAL MEETING. ROOSEVELT INFERS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT COMMENTS TO PRESIDENT HUSSEIN SUGGEST OUR PRESIDENT MAY FEEL SAME WAY. ON ARAB SIDE, DELEGATES WOULD BE THOSE CHOSEN BY SADAT AND PRINCE FAHD. LETTER CONCLUDES BY ASKING SADAT TO CABLE HIM REACTIONS BY MAY 7, C/O PRINCE FAHD IN RIYADH.

4. I TOLD ROOSEVELT THAT DIRECT DIALOGUE BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS ALWAYS DESIRABLE, BUT I PERSONALLY DOUBTED SADAT WOULD BE INTERESTED. FOR ONE THING, SADAT WILL WONDER FOR WHOM KOLLEK SPEAKS AND WHAT UTILITY SUCH PRIVATE MEETING WILL HAVE. FOR ANOTHER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE SADAT TAKING POLITICAL RISK OF SUCH MEETING WITHOUT SYRIAN AGREEMENT OR PARTICIPATION. MOREVER, SADAT'S PAST EXPERIENCE MAKES HIM WELL AWARE THAT ISRAELIS ARE LIKELY TO LEAK NEWS OF SUCH A MEETING, WHICH WOULD CAUSE HIM POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT AT HOME AND ABROAD. ALSO, KNOWING PRINCE FAHD, I DOUBTED THAT HE WOULD FAVOR IDEA. NOR DID I THINK PROMOTING DISCUSSION OF KOLLEK'S CANTONALIZATION IDEA AT THIS TIME WAS WISE. IT IS LIKELY TO BE REJECTED BY ARABS, WHICH WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO CONSIDER SUCH CONCEPT, SHOULD IT BE RAISED, AT SOME FUTURE TIME. FINALLY, IN MY VIEW, SADAT WANTS TO GO TO GENEVA THIS YEAR AND WILL NOT BE ATTRACTED BY PRIVATE MEETINGS OF THE TYPE SUGGESTED.

5. ROOSEVELET ACKNOWLEDGED THESE POINTS, BUT SAID HE
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FELT OBLIGATED PRESENT KOLLEK'S PROPOSAL ANYWAY.
I TOLD HIM THIS WAS A MATTER FOR HIM TO DECIDE, BUT
ID DID NOT WISH TO BE IN A POSITION OF ARRANGING MEETING
WITH SADAT WHICH WOULD MAKE LATTER SUSPECT THAT
ROOSEVELET SPEAKING WITH USG ENDORSEMENT.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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